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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE
TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Thirteenth session,
Geneva, 7-17 July 1997,
agenda item (3 (a))

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Tanks (Part 3, Chapter 4.2 and 6.6)

Leakproofness testing of portable tanks for deeply refrigerated liquefied gases

Transmitted by the European Portable Tank Association/
Tank Container Association (EPTA/TCA)

At the meeting of the Committee of Experts in December 1996 a proposal from the United Kingdom was considered and rejected. This proposed reducing the minimum pressure at which leakproof testing of portable tanks for deeply refrigerated gases should take place from 90% to not less than 25% of the maximum allowable working pressure (mawp) (see ST/SG/AC.10/R516, and the report of the Committee of Experts meeting ST/SG/AC.10/23 at paragraph 89).

There are important safety considerations in how testing at this level of mawp should be carried out. EPTA/TCA therefore propose that a warning be inserted in the relevant part of Chapter 17 of the Recommendations.

Proposal

Insert the following note at the end of 6.6.4.14.3 (reformatted text) (formerly 17.15.32):

"Note: Pressure testing using gases (including air) as the pressurising medium is potentially dangerous. The energy stored within a shell under test could be released explosively if it should fail. Appropriate precautions should be taken before attempting leakproof testing. The test medium used for the leakproofness test shall in no case create an hazard to the inspecting personnel or any persons in the vicinity."